

**Charter Review Committee Meeting Minutes
Second Floor Conference Room, Town Hall
Monday, October 6, 2014, 7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Betsey Anderson, Anne Bickford, Polly Herz, Amy Lloyd, Joanna Nickerson, and Jan Shepard

ALSO PRESENT: Human Resources/Management Analyst Sarah Buhler

ABSENT: Steve Hagan, Ed Pierce, and Michael Rosenberg

Committee Chair Betsey Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Approval of minutes of September 22, 2014

Ms. Herz made a motion to approve Minutes of September 22, 2014 as written. Ms. Lloyd seconded the motion.

The motion passed 6-0-0.

2. Review of any proposed changes

Ms. Anderson reviewed with the committee a few of the proposed changes to the chart that have been suggested since the committee last met. The title of Section 9-3 Date of Appointments has been changed to read: "Term of Appointments." In addition, Section 3-5 Duties of Volunteer Coordinating Committee has been changed by deleting the term "subcommittees" and inserting the term "appointees." This change is in reference to appointees of elected and appointed boards and committees which do not fall under the responsibilities of the Volunteer Coordinating Committee.

3. Plan for presentation of recommendations at STM

Ms. Anderson circulated a letter from Town Counsel in regards to the proposed amendment to Section 6-1 The Finance Committee. At the committee's last meeting, it was proposed that the Appointing Authority of the Finance Committee be expanded to a four member body. Town Counsel determined that this would be inconsistent with M.G.L. c. 43B, s. 20 (c) and therefore should not be inserted into the warrant as currently proposed.

The Committee discussed the possibility of adding a fifth member to the Finance Committee Appointing Authority, although this was determined to be an unwieldy construct. The Committee also discussed withdrawing this proposed amendment for Special Town Meeting with the intent of continuing to work on an amendment for the Annual Town Meeting in the spring. In the end, the Committee felt that it was best at this time, to table this issue and if it is still a concern in five years, then another amendment could be prepared at that time.

A brief discussion then occurred regarding whether limiting the length of a chairperson's term would alleviate the concerns brought forth in the discussion of the Finance Committee Appointing Authority. It was suggested that a bylaw amendment could be drafted for Annual Town Meeting to stipulate the length of chairperson terms. Ms. Anderson noted that a number of people have suggested placing a limit on chairperson terms over the years. Ms. Lloyd commented that if people have been lobbying for this change, it could be in the purview of the Committee to recommend a bylaw article for Annual Town Meeting.

Ms. Shepard stated that she would support a rotation of leadership on committees as having a long standing chair could potentially drive away new membership from some groups.

The Committee then discussed which groups this limitation would affect the most, noting that the existence of some smaller committees is due to their long standing chairs.

It was suggested that if a bylaw amendment were to be proposed, language could be added to Section 5-6 Organization of elected boards and committees that would read "No chair shall serve more than X number of consecutive terms." The Committee ultimately decided to table this issue as that they did not want to make a bylaw recommendation without the whole Committee present.

Ms. Shepard made a motion to remove the recommended Charter amendment to Section 6-1 The Finance Committee from consideration due to the opinion of Town Counsel. Ms. Lloyd seconded the motion.

The motion passed 6-0-0.

4. Selectmen's hearing on proposed amendments at 7:50 PM

The Committee finalized the assignments of article presentations for Special Town Meeting.

Ms. Shepard made a motion to adjourn to the Selectmen's meeting. Ms. Nickerson seconded the motion.

The motion passed 6-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Minutes approved as written March 23, 2015